interest rates for export credit are quite competitive and comparable to international rates. Further, credit is only one of the inputs for exports.

(d) and (e). Complaints from exporters received in the Government generally pertain to non-availability of adequate export credit at cheaper rates. RBI has issued detailed instructions to banks to ensure that (i) no worthwhile export suffers for want of funds (ii) cases of rejection of export credit proposals are brought to the notice of the Chief Executive explaining reasons for rejection; and (iii) grievance of exporter-borrowers in the matter of timely and adequate sanction of credit limits are redressed promptly.

**Setting up of a Dry port at Kandla**

2152. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the facilities to be provided at the Dry Port at Kandla and the cost of the project;

(b) the details of any other sites under consideration of the Government for setting up such dry ports in the country, Statewise; and

(c) the time by which these ports are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) A dry port normally means provision of facilities like warehousing of cargo, customs clearance, stuffing/destuffing, banking, services of steamer agents, freight forwarders, etc., at points away from maritime ports. In India these facilities are being provided at Inland Container Depots (ICDs) and Container Freight Stations (CFSs) which have been set up at various places. An Inter Ministerial Committe (IMC) is functioning in the Ministry of Commerce to provide single window clearance to the proposals for setting up of Dry Ports (Inland Container Depots/Container Freight Stations (ICDs/CFSs). A proposal of Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) for setting up a CFS at Kandla was cleared by the said IMC. The CFS at Kandla which has been built at a cost of approx. Rs. 1.5 crores by CWC is in operation since March, 1996.

(b) and (c). The Government considers proposals for setting up ICDs/CFSs as and when received. The proposals under consideration of Government for setting up Dry Ports in the country, State-wise are as under :

1. Kerala - (CFSs at Aroor and Cochin)
2. Maharashtra - (CFSs at Dronagiri Node and New Bombay)
3. Uttar Pradesh - (ICD at Dadri)
4. Tamil Nadu-(CFS at Tuticorin)
5. Gujarat - (CFS at Rajkot)
6. Rajasthan - (ICD at Bhiwadi)

**Export of Cotton**

2153. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to withdra all restrictions from export of cotton and cotton v during the current cotton season;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to help the cotton grov is to boost its export?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An export quota of 5.15 lakh bales has already been released early in the cotton year 1996-97.

Besides, with a view to help cotton growers, Minimum Support Prices (MSP) have been announced by Government. The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) has been entering most of the major cotton parists to make commercial purchases. Various State Marketing Federations are also purchasing cotton from the growers directly. To enhance the production of cotton, the Ministry of Agriculture has taken various measures including the implementation of Intensive Cotton Development Programme. The CCI has also taken up extension projects for supplementing the efforts of State Governments.

*[Translation]*

**Funds for Research and Exploration Work**

2154. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated for research and exploration work in coal industry during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether proper utilisation of the allocated amount was not made during the last four years of the Plan;

(c) if so, the total actual amount spent on research and exploration work till March, 1996; and

(d) the details of the research and exploration work done for the development of coal industry during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The total outlay in the Eighth Five Year Plan towards research and development activities in the coal sector and regional exploration of coal was Rs. 87 crores and Rs. 25 crores respectively. The provision of Rs. 25 crores for regional exploration was subsequently increased to Rs. 45 crores during mid-term appraisal of the Plan.